

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 INR-05 PM-03 DODE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 NSC-05 INRE-00 EB-03 L-01 /039 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9432

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3148

LIMDIS

FOR DEP ASST SECY MILLER FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, CB, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISIT TO SOUTH VIETNAM
AND CAMBODIA

1. I GOT WORD TO MARSHAL LON NOL THIS MORNING THAT THE VISIT OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA HAS BEEN POSTPONED. I ALSO EXPLAINED REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT. POLITICAL/MILITARY COUNSELOR PASSED SAME MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO KHMER AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, UM SIM, WHO IS PRESENTLY IN PHNOM PENH AND IS GKR ACTION OFFICER FOR THE VISIT.

2. IN CONVEYING MESSAGE TO THE MARSHAL I STRESSED THAT AIRLIFT OPERATIONS ARE CONTINUING SMOOTHLY AND THAT THE AMMUNITION STOCKS ARE GRADUALLY BEING BUILT UP. I ALSO PASSED ON WORD THAT WE WILL TRY TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO INSURE ADEQUACY OF RICE SUPPLIES FOR PHNOM PENH IN CASE STOCKS FALL BELOW CRITICAL LEVEL. I POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THESE EMERGENCY EFFORTS MERELY BUY TIME AND THAT FIRST PRIORITY REMAINS THE OPENING OF THE MEKONG TO NAVIGATION. I PURPOSELY MADE THESE POINTS BECAUSE I WANTED TO CUSHION WHAT I EXPECTED TO BE THE MARSHAL'S DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE
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NEWS THAT CODEL WOULD NOT BE COMING TO PHNOM PENH THIS

MONTH. KEEPING UP THE MORALE OF THE MARSHAL AND KEY
KHMERS IS OF HIGHEST IMPORTANCE AT THIS TIME.

3. I PURPOSELY DID NOT SEEK OUT LONG BORET BECAUSE
THIS WOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET ME
INVOLVED IN THE SERIOUS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN LONG
BORET AND HIS CABINET ON ONE SIDE AND KHMER MILITARY
ON THE OTHER. AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT COME TO ME FOR
HELP ON THIS ISSUE, I FEEL IT IS BETTER FOR ME TO
STAY OUT OF IT AND LET THEM WORK IT OUT THEMSELVES.

4. THE MARSHAL'S AIDE CALLED BACK LATER IN THE MORNING
TO SAY THAT MY MESSAGE HAD BEEN CONVEYED AND THAT HE
HOPED TO SEE ME "BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK". I
SAID THAT I WOULD CALL ON HIM ON SATURDAY. IT WOULD
BE MOST HELP FUL IF I COULD HAVE SOME GUIDANCE FROM
THE DEPT BY THAT DATE SO I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY
TO HIM ABOUT THE PROBLEMS I DISCUSSED WITH HIM
TWELVE DAYS AGO AND WHICH ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST
TO HIM AT THIS TIME.
DEAN

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